

## SYLLABUS BIOL 3336 – ECOLOGY

SPRING 2024

**PROFESSOR:** Marsha Williams, HPR 107 or BEP 129 (Main Biology Office), Phone – 903-566-6194, Email: mwilliams@uttyler.edu  
Office Hours: M 1-3 p.m.; W 1:00 -2:00 p.m., or by appointment

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Study of the interrelationships of plants and animals with the environment. Co-requisite: BIOL 3137. Prerequisites: BIOL 1306/1106, BIOL 1307/1107.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Develop the ability to evaluate scientific inquiry on issues in the field of Ecology.
2. Learn how organisms interact with each other and with the natural world.
3. Understand the structure and function of different types of ecosystems.
4. Learn techniques for gathering, analysis and interpretation of data, including how to present scientific information in figures and tables.
5. Develop an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the natural world in their own personal lives.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Marchetti, M.P., J.L. Lockwood, and M.F. Hoopes. 2023. Ecology in a changing world. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. New York, NY.

**EVALUATION:** Students will be evaluated based on the following work:

1. Participation **15%**. This will include keeping up with readings, attendance, and actively participating in group presentations.
2. Group Presentations: Two group presentations (**10%** of final grade each) will be given during the semester on assigned topics that reenforce learning of course material.
3. Examinations. Two midterms will be given. Each will be worth **20%** of the final grade. *In the event you wish to dispute an exam question, an essay outlining your argument must be submitted within one week of the exam being handed back. Your written appeal should be based on course materials and should stress the scientific validity of your original response.*
4. Final Exam. The final exam will be worth **25%** of the final grade and will be comprehensive. This exam will also include any information covered after Exam 2.
5. We will follow a 10-point scale for grading, I will only round up when you are sitting at 0.5 or greater (e.g., 79.5 would round to 80):  
90-100% = A            80-89% = B            70-79 = C            60-69% = D            0-59% = F

**SUPPLEMENTS:** Illustrations, announcements, and PowerPoint presentations will be available on Canvas immediately following each lecture. Students should actively listen and take notes in lecture for optimal performance in this class. These materials are strictly for your own use, and are not to be disseminated to anyone else, under any circumstances. Lectures will be supplemented with films shown during class. These will provide new information or reaffirm the information presented in lecture. Both lectures and supplements represent testable material.

## TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (M,W,F 11:15 am -12:10 pm, HPR 262)

### Lecture Topics (Ch)

Ecology in the Anthropocene (Introduction) (1); Quantitative Reasoning (2) Global Climate and Biomes (3); Evolution and Speciation (4); Individuals: Physiology and Behavior (5)

#### February 16th – Exam 1

Populations (6); Competition (7); Exploitation (8); Mutualism and Facilitation (9); Multispecies Interactions and Food Webs (10)

#### March 22nd – Exam 2

Biodiversity (11); Spatial Dynamics (12); Communities through Time (13); Nutrient Cycling and Ecosystem Services (14); Anthropocene Ecology (15)

#### Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> 10:15 am to 12:15 pm – Final Exam

### IMPORTANT DATES:

1/15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (No class)
1/29	Census Date
3/11 - 15	Spring Break (No classes)
3/25	Last Day to Withdraw
4/29-5/3	Final Exam Week*

\*Final Exam in Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> 10:15 am to 12:15 pm.

**HONOR CODE / ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Students should be aware that absolute academic integrity is expected of every student in all undertakings at The University of Texas at Tyler. Failure to comply can result in strong university-imposed penalties. Plagiarism (copying the work of others without proper citation), talking during test time, having mobile electronic devices on (cell phones, PDA's, laptops) during exams are some examples of behavior to be avoided.

**EXAMS:** It is your responsibility to arrive at the exam on time. All exams will be held in our regular classroom. Students who arrive late will not be given additional time, and anyone arriving after other students have finished and left will not be permitted to take the exam. Failing to take a scheduled examination will result in a score of 0 unless replaced by a make-up exam in a timely fashion. 'Make-up' examinations are given only in cases where there is a documented excuse beyond your reasonable control:

- Illness – you must have a physician note indicating that you were not in a physical condition to take the exam at the scheduled time. A note from a family member is insufficient.
- Death or grave illness in your immediate family.
- Significant scheduling conflicts (e.g., med-school interviews, or other university sponsored events). You must notify the instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of this absence.

The nature of the make-up exam will be decided by the instructor and may consist of a written and/or oral examination.

**Academic Integrity:** Students should be aware that absolute academic integrity is expected of every student, in all courses taken at The University of Texas at Tyler. Failure to comply can result in strong university-imposed penalties. For instance, submitting plagiarized work to meet academic requirements including the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; the unacknowledged word-for-word research results shall be grounds for charges of academic misconduct. Any cheating or other types of academic misconduct will be reported to the university administration and at minimum will result in an automatic failure of the course.

### Exams

- **TAKEN INDIVIDUALLY**, without input or assistance from anyone else, including students that have taken the exam, quiz, or course previously.
- The use of notes, texts, or any other reference material is **PROHIBITED**.
- Possession of anything containing course content will be considered cheating, whether or not you actually refer to them or not during the exam
- **TALKING** during an exam to anyone other than the instructor or proctor will automatically be considered cheating. It does not matter what you were talking about.
- Any use of a cell phone or any other electronic device that could be used to record or transmit test material is **PROHIBITED**. Phones must be out of sight and silenced during the exam.
- Hats worn during exams must be turned around or removed so the face is not covered in any way.

### **WHAT IS PLAGIARISM AND HOW CAN IT BE AVOIDED?**

Plagiarism may be defined as (1) presenting work, ideas, or phrasing of another, in whole or part, as one's own without giving credit and proper documentation of sources; (2) copying material directly from sources (including electronic media) except when the material is enclosed in quotation marks and the source is clearly identified; (3) paraphrasing too closely to the original, even when the source is identified; and (4) claiming credit for work in any media (electronic, digital, artistic, etc.) where the student is not the original creator of said work. Work that is plagiarized will receive an automatic grade of "F". If you are unsure about this subject, please take the time to talk to your instructor and /or read this:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>

You will also be required to turn in all written assignments (lab report assignments) in a Word document on **CANVAS** which will use **UNICHECK** to assess your paper for Plagiarism. You will find this on your Canvas page for this lab course; each assignment will be compared to previous student work and the work of your classmates! You will only need to turn in a copy of your assignment via the CANVAS Link.

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is **explicitly prohibited** unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism.

Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. **It is imperative that all work submitted should be your own.** Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and/or be reported for academic misconduct.

**Corrupted File Policy:** Any student that turns in a corrupted file will be given 24 hours to turn in a file that can be opened successfully by the instructor. Failure to do so will earn a grade of “0” (Zero) for the paper.

### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html>

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness**

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average.

Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.

### **State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the 12th day of class (See Schedule of Classes for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Registrar's Office and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Registrar's Office if you have any questions.

### **Disability Services**

In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office in UC 282, or call (903) 566-7079.

### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that

time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement:**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Emergency Exits and Evacuation:**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.